

**[0045] What is claimed is:**

1. A Signalling System #7 (SS7) processing node comprising:
  - a Signal Transfer Element for routing incoming and outgoing messages;
  - a Signal Processing Element (STE) for processing the messages, the STE being assigned a non-permanent Virtual Service Address (VSA);
- 5 wherein when the processing node detects an unavailability of a cooperating processing node, the processing node issues a Transfer Allowed (TFA) message to an adjacent Service Transfer Point (STP) for enabling a linkset route between the STP and the processing node.
2. A method for processing node redundancy comprising the steps of:
  - detecting by a first processing node an unavailability of a second processing node, wherein the first and second processing nodes are redundant processing nodes;
  - 5 sending from the first processing node to an adjacent Service Transfer Point (STP) a Transfer Allowed (TFA) message for enabling a linkset route between the STP and the processing node.